An Analysis of Surveys Regarding Absentee Ballots Across Several States

William M. Briggs

November 23, 2020

1 Summary

Survey data was collected from individuals in several states, sampling those who the states listed as not returning absentee ballots. The data was provided by Matt Braynard.

The survey asked respondents whether they (a) had ever requested an absentee ballot, and, if so, (b) whether they had in fact returned this ballot. From this sample I produce predictions of the total numbers of: **Error** #1, those who were recorded as receiving absentee ballots without requesting them; and **Error** #2, those who returned absentee ballots but whose votes went missing (i.e. marked as unreturned).

The sizes of both errors were large in each state. The states were Georgia, Michigan, Wisconsin, and Arizona where ballots were across parties. Pennsylvania data was for Republicans only.

2 Analysis Description

Each analysis was carried out separately for each state. The analysis used (a) the number of absentee ballots recorded as unreturned, (b) the total responding to the survey, (c) the total of those saying they did not request a ballot, (d) the total of those saying they did request a ballot, and of these (e) the number saying they returned their ballots. I assume survery respondents are representative and the data is accurate.

From these data a simple parameter-free predictive model was used to calculate the probability of all possible outcomes. Pictures of these probabilities were derived, and the 95% prediction interval of the relevant numbers was calculated. The pictures appear in the Appendix at the end. They are summarized here with their 95% prediction intervals.

Error #1: being recorded as sent an absentee ballot without requesting one.

Error #2: sending back an absentee ballot and having it recorded as not returned.

State	Unreturned ballots	Error #1	Error $\#2$
Georgia	138,029	16,938-22,771	31,559–38,866
Michigan	139,190	29,611 - 36,529	27,928 - 34,710
Pennsylvania*	$165,\!412$	$32,\!414 -\!37,\!444$	26,954 - 31,643
Wisconsin	96,771	$16,\!316 -\!19,\!273$	13,991-16,757
Arizona	518,560	208,333 - 229,937	78,714 - 94,975

^{*}Number for Pennsylvania represent Republican ballots only.

Ballots that were not requested, and ballots returned and marked as not returned were classed as *troublesome*. The estimated average number of troublesome ballots for each state were then calculated using the table above and are presented next.

State	Unreturned ballots	Estimated average	Percent
		troublesome ballots	
Georgia	138,029	53,489	39%
Michigan	139,190	$62,\!517$	45%
Pennsylvania*	$165,\!412$	61,780	37%
Wisconsin	96,771	$29,\!594$	31%
Arizona	518,560	303,305	58%

^{*}Number for Pennsylvania represent Republican ballots only.

3 Conclusion

There are clearly a large number of troublesome ballots in each state investigated. Ballots marked as not returned that were never requested are clearly an error of some kind. The error is not small as a percent of the total recorded unreturned ballots.

Ballots sent back and unrecorded is a separate error. These represent votes that have gone missing, a serious mistake. The number of these missing ballots is also large in each state.

Survey respondents were not asked if they received an unrequested ballot whether they sent these ballots back. This is clearly a lively possibility, and represents a third possible source of error, including the potential of voting twice (once by absentee and once at the polls). No estimates or likelihood can be calculated for this potential error due to absence of data.

4 Declaration of William M. Briggs, PhD

- 1. My name is William M. Briggs. I am over 18 years of age and am competent to testify in this action. All of the facts stated herein are true and based on my personal knowledge.
- 2. I received a Ph.D of Statistics from Cornell University in 2004.
- 3. I am currently a statistical consultant. I make this declaration in my personal capacity.
- 4. I have analyzed data regarding responses to questions relating to mail ballot requests, returns and related issues.
- 5. I attest to a reasonable degree of professional certainty that the resulting analysis are accurate.

I declare under the penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

William M. Kinggo

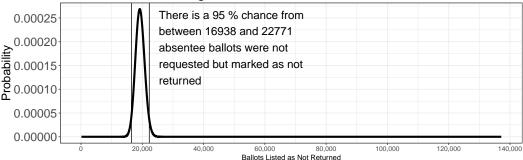
23 November 2020

William M. Briggs

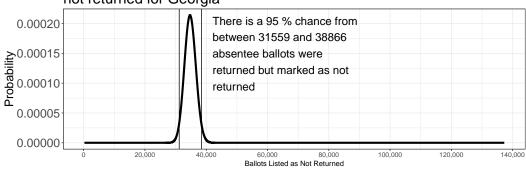
Appendix 5

The probability pictures for each state for each outcome as mentioned above.

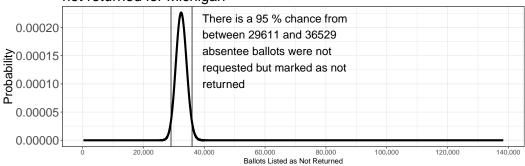
Probability of numbers of un-requested absentee ballots listed as not returned for Georgia There is a 95 % chance from 0.00025 between 16938 and 22771



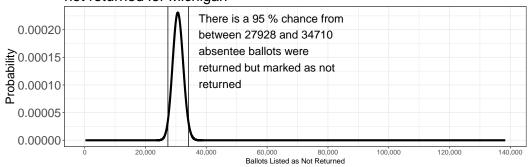
Probability of numbers of absentee ballots returned but listed as not returned for Georgia



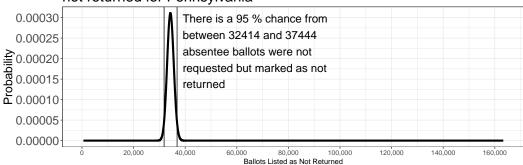
Probability of numbers of un-requested absentee ballots listed as not returned for Michigan



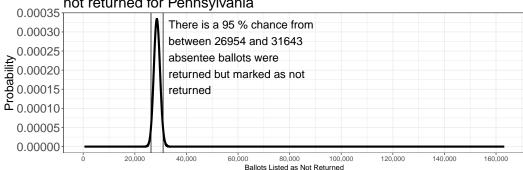
Probability of numbers of absentee ballots returned but listed as not returned for Michigan



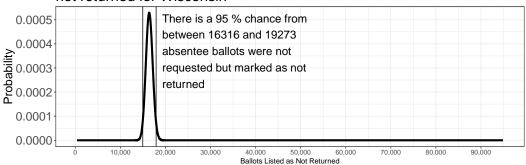
Probability of numbers of un-requested absentee ballots listed as not returned for Pennsylvania



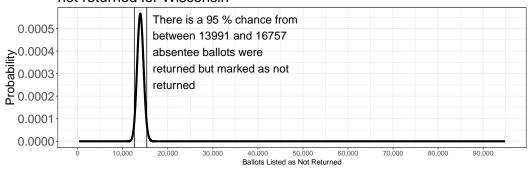
Probability of numbers of absentee ballots returned but listed as not returned for Pennsylvania



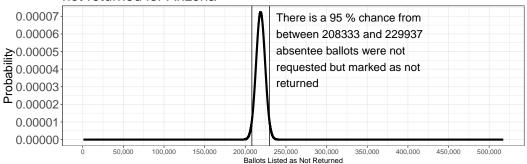
Probability of numbers of un-requested absentee ballots listed as not returned for Wisconsin



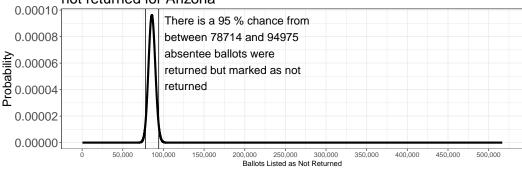
Probability of numbers of absentee ballots returned but listed as not returned for Wisconsin



Probability of numbers of un-requested absentee ballots listed as not returned for Arizona



Probability of numbers of absentee ballots returned but listed as not returned for Arizona



WI Unreturned Live Agent - Mass Markets

			11/15/2020	11/16/2020	11/17/2020
4,614	Completes		-	3,483	1,131
433	Completed survey** - Q4=0	1-Completed Survey	-	300	133
1,053	VM Message Left	2-Message Delivered VM	-	804	249
3,128	Refused/Early Hang up/RC	3-Refused	-	2,379	749
50,712	No Answer	4-No Answer	-	40,391	10,321
1,944	Bad/Wrong Numbers/Langu	5-Bad Number	-	1,289	655
100.00%	List Penetration				
57,271	Data Loads				

Q1 - May I p screen>?	y I please speak to <lead on="" response<="" th=""><th>11/15/2020</th><th>11/16/2020</th><th>11/17/2020</th></lead>		11/15/2020	11/16/2020	11/17/2020
		A-Reached Target + B-What Is This			
2,261	64.69%	About? / Uncertain	-	1,343	475
1,677	47.98%	X = Refused	-	1,202	475
0	0.00%				
3,495	100.00%	Sum of All Responses	-	2,545	950

Q2 - Did yo in state of \	u request Absentee Ballot VI?	Response	11/15/2020	11/16/2020	11/17/2020
1,699	62.39%	A-Yes [Go to Q3]	-	1,374	325

379		B-No [Go to Q4]	-	240	139
32	1.18%	C-Yes (per Spouse/family Member) [Go to Q3]	-	16	16
4		D-No (per Spouse/family Member) [Go to Q4]	-	-	4
44	1.62%	E-Unsure [Go to Close A]	-	25	19
4	0.15%	F-Not Available At The Moment [Go to Close A]	-	2	2
561	20.60%	X = Refused	-	405	156
2,723	100.00%	Sum of All Responses	-	2,062	661

Q3 - Did yo	u mail your ballot back?	Response	11/15/2020	11/16/2020	11/17/2020
316	14.67%	A-Yes [Go to Q4]	-	238	78
1,286	59.70%	B-No [Go to Close A]	-	1,069	217
9	0.42%	C-Yes (per Spouse/family Member) [Go to Q4]	-	4	5
15	0.70%	D-No (per Spouse/family Member) [Go to Close A]	-	8	7
28	1.30%	E-Unsure / Refused [Go to Close A]	-	24	4
500	23.21%	X = Refused	-	314	186
			-		
2,154	100.00%	Sum of All Responses	-	1,657	497

Q4 - Can you please give us the best phone number to reach you at?		Response	11/15/2020	11/16/2020	11/17/2020
432	80.00%	A-Yes (Capture Number) [Go to Q5]	-	300	132
108	20.00%	B-Refused [Go to Q5]	-	77	31
0	0.00%				
0	0.00%				
540	100.00%	Sum of All Responses	-	377	163

Q5 - Can you provide us your email address?		Response	11/15/2020	11/16/2020	11/17/2020
50	11.55%	01-Yes [Go to Close B]	-	37	13
383	88.45%	02-No [Go to Close B]	-	263	120
0	0.00%				
433	100.00%	Sum of All Responses	-	300	133

William M. Briggs, PhD

Statistician to the Stars! matt@wmbriggs.com 917-392-0691

1. Experience

- (1) 2016: Author of Uncertainty: The Soul of Modeling, Probability & Statistics, a book which argues for a complete and fundamental change in the philosophy and practice of probability and statistics. Eliminate hypothesis testing and estimation, and move to verifiable predictions. This includes AI and machine learning. Call this The Great Reset, but a good one.
- (2) 2004-2016 Adjunct Professor of Statistical Science, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York I taught a yearly Masters course to people who (rightfully) hate statistics. Interests: philosophy of science & probability, epistemology, epidemiology (ask me about the all-too-common epidemiologist fallacy), Bayesian statistics, medicine, climatology & meteorology, goodness of forecasts, overconfidence in science; public understanding of science, limitations of science, scientism; scholastic metaphysics (as it relates to epistemology).
- (3) 1998-PRESENT. STATISTICAL CONSULTANT, VARIOUS COMPANIES
 Most of my time is spent coaxing people out of their money to tell them
 they are too sure of themselves. All manner of analyses cheerfully undertaken. Example: Fraud analysis; I created the Wall Street Journal's
 College Rankings. I consultant regularly at Methodist and other hospitals,
 start-ups, start-downs, and with any instition willing to fork it over.
- (4) 2003-2010. RESEARCH SCIENTIST, NEW YORK METHODIST HOSPITAL, NEW YORK
 Besides the usual, I sit/sat on the Institutional Review Committee to assess the statistics of proposed research. I was an Associate Editor for *Monthly Weather Review* (through 2011). Also a member of the American Meteorological Society's Probability and Statistics Committee (through 2011). At
- (5) Fall 2007, Fall 2010 Visiting Professor of Statistics, Department of Mathematics, Central Michigan University, Mt. Pleasant, MI

a hospital? Yes, sir; at a hospital. It rains there, too, you know.

- Who doesn't love a visit from a statistician? Ask me about the difference between "a degree" and "an education."
- (6) 2003-2007, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR STATISTICS, WEILL MEDICAL COL-LEGE OF CORNELL UNIVERSITY, NEW YORK, NEW YORK Working here gave me a sincere appreciation of the influences of government money; grants galore.
- (7) 2002-2003. Gotham Risk Management, New York A start-up then, after Enron's shenanigans, a start-down. We set future weather derivative and weather insurance contract prices that incorporated information from medium- and long-range weather and climate forecasts.
- (8) 1998-2002. DoubleClick, New York Lead statistician. Lot of computer this and thats; enormous datasets.
- (9) 1993-1998. Graduate student, Cornell University

- Meteorology, applied climatology, and finally statistics. Was Vice Chair of the graduate student government; probably elected thanks to a miracle.
- (10) 1992-1993. NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE, SAULT STE. MARIE, MI Forecast storms o' the day and launched enormous balloons in the name of Science. My proudest moment came when I was able to convince an ancient IBM-AT machine to talk to an *analog*, 110 baud, phone-coupled modem, all using BASIC!
- (11) 1989-1992. Undergraduate student, Central Michigan University
 Meteorology and mathematics. Started the local student meteorology group
 - to chase tornadoes. Who knew Michigan had so few? Spent a summer at U Michigan playing with a (science-fiction-sounding) lidar.
- (12) 1983-1989. UNITED STATES AIR FORCE Cryptography and other secret stuff. Shot things; learned pinochle. I adopted and became proficient with a fascinating and versatile vocabulary. Irritate me for examples. TS/SCI, etc. security clearance (now inactive).

2. Education

- (1) Ph.D., 2004, Cornell University. Statistics.
- (2) M.S., 1995, Cornell University. Atmospheric Science.
- (3) B.S., Summa Cum Laude, 1992, Central Michigan University. Meteorology and Math.

3. Publications

3.0.1. Popular.

(1) Op-eds in various newspapers; articles in *Stream, Crisis Magazine, The Remnant, Quadrant, Quirks*; blog with ∼70,000 monthly readers. Various briefs submitted to government agencies, such as California Air Resources Board, Illinois Department of Natural Resources. Talks and holding-forths of all kinds.

3.0.2. Books.

- (1) Richards, JW, WM Briggs, and D Axe, 2020. *UThe Price of Panic: How the Tyranny of Experts Turned a Pandemic into a Catastrophe*. Regnery. Professors Jay Richards, William Briggs, and Douglas Axe take a deep dive into the crucial questions on the minds of millions of Americans during one of the most jarring and unprecedented global events in a generation.
- (2) Briggs, WM., 2016. Uncertainty: The Soul of Modeling, Probability & Statistics. Springer. Philosophy of probability and statistics. A new (old) way to view and to use statistics, a way that doesn't lead to heartbreak and pandemic over-certainty, like current methods do.
- (3) Briggs, WM., 2008 Breaking the Law of Averages: Real Life Probability and Statistics in Plain English. Lulu Press, New York. Free text for undergraduates
- (4) Briggs, WM., 2006 So You Think You're Psychic? Lulu Press, New York. Hint: I'll bet you're not.

- (1) Briggs, WM and J.C. Hanekamp, 2020. Uncertainty In The MAN Data Calibration & Trend Estimates. *Atmospheric Environment*, In review.
- (2) Briggs, WM and J.C. Hanekamp, 2020. Adjustments to the Ryden & McNeil Ammonia Flux Model. *Soil Use and Management*, In review.
- (3) Briggs, William M., 2020. Parameter-Centric Analysis Grossly Exaggerates Certainty. In *Data Science for Financial Econometrics*, V Kreinovich, NN Thach, ND Trung, DV Thanh (eds.), In press.
- (4) Briggs, WM, HT Nguyen, D Trafimow, 2019. Don't Test, Decide. In *Behavioral Predictive Modeling in Econometrics*, Springer, V Kreinovich, S Sriboonchitta (eds.). In press.
- (5) Briggs, William M. and HT Nguyen, 2019. Clarifying ASA's view on p-values in hypothesis testing. Asian Journal of Business and Economics, 03(02), 1–16.
- (6) Briggs, William M., 2019. Reality-Based Probability & Statistics: Solving The Evidential Crisis (invited paper). Asian Journal of Business and Economics, 03(01), 37–80.
- (7) Briggs, William M., 2019. Everything Wrong with P-Values Under One Roof. *In Beyond Traditional Probabilistic Methods in Economics*, V Kreinovich, NN Thach, ND Trung, DV Thanh (eds.), pp 22—44.
- (8) Briggs, WM, HT Nguyen, D Trafimow, 2019. The Replacement for Hypothesis Testing. In Structural Changes and Their Econometric Modeling, Springer, V Kreinovich, S Sriboonchitta (eds.), pp 3—17.
- (9) Trafimow, D, V Amrhein, CN Areshenkoff, C Barrera-Causil, ..., WM Briggs, (45 others), 2018. Manipulating the alpha level cannot cure significance testing. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 9, 699. doi.org/10.3389/ fpsyg.2018.00699.
- (10) Briggs, WM, 2018. Testing, Prediction, and Cause in Econometric Models. In *Econometrics for Financial Applications*, ed. Anh, Dong, Kreinovich, and Thach. Springer, New York, pp 3–19.
- (11) Briggs, WM, 2017. The Substitute for p-Values. *JASA*, 112, 897–898.
- (12) J.C. Hanekamp, M. Crok, M. Briggs, 2017. Ammoniak in Nederland. Enkele kritische wetenschappelijke kanttekeningen. V-focus, Wageningen.
- (13) Briggs, WM, 2017. Math: Old, New, and Equalitarian. Academic Questions, 30(4), 508–513.
- (14) Monckton, C, W Soon, D Legates, ... (several others), WM Briggs 2018. On an error in applying feedback theory to climate. In submission (currently *J. Climate*).
- (15) Briggs, WM, JC Hanekamp, M Crok, 2017. Comment on Goedhart and Huijsmans. Soil Use and Management, 33(4), 603–604.
- (16) Briggs, WM, JC Hanekamp, M Crok, 2017. Response to van Pul, van Zanten and Wichink Kruit. Soil Use and Management, 33(4), 609–610.
- (17) Jaap C. Hanekamp, William M. Briggs, and Marcel Crock, 2016. A volatile discourse reviewing aspects of ammonia emissions, models, and atmospheric concentrations in The Netherlands. *Soil Use and Management*, 33(2), 276–287.

- (18) Christopher Monckton of Brenchley, Willie Soon, David Legates, William Briggs, 2015. Keeping it simple: the value of an irreducibly simple climate model. *Science Bulletin*. August 2015, Volume 60, Issue 15, pp 1378–1390.
- (19) Briggs, WM, 2015. The Third Way Of Probability & Statistics: Beyond Testing and Estimation To Importance, Relevance, and Skill. arxiv.org/abs/1508.02384.
- (20) Briggs, WM, 2015. The Crisis Of Evidence: Why Probability And Statistics Cannot Discover Cause. arxiv.org/abs/1507.07244.
- (21) David R. Legates, Willie Soon, William M. Briggs, Christopher Monckton of Brenchley, 2015. Climate Consensus and 'Misinformation': A Rejoinder to Agnotology, Scientific Consensus, and the Teachingand Learning of Climate Change. Science and Education, 24, 299–318, DOI 10.1007/s11191-013-9647-9.
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- (24) Briggs, WM, 2014. Common Statistical Fallacies. *Journal of American Physicians and Surgeons*, Volume 19 Number 2, 58–60.
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- (27) Briggs, WM, 2012. On Probability Leakage. arxiv.org/abs/1201.3611.
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- (32) Zaretzki R, Gilchrist MA, Briggs WM, and Armagan A, 2010. Bias correction and Bayesian analysis of aggregate counts in SAGE libraries. *BMC Bioinformatics*, 11:72doi:10.1186/1471-2105-11-72.
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- (44) Briggs, WM, and D Ruppert, 2005. Assessing the skill of Yes/No Predictions. *Biometrics*. **61(3)**, 799-807. PMID: 16135031.
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- (1) Jamorabo, Daniel, Renelus, Benjamin, Briggs, WM, 2019. "Comparative outcomes of EUS-guided cystogastrostomy for peripancreatic fluid collections (PFCs): A systematic review and meta-analysis, 2019. Therapeutic Advances in Gastrointestinal Endoscopy, in press.
- (2) Benjamin Renelus, S Paul, S Peterson, N Dave, D amorabo, W Briggs, P Kancharla, 2019. Racial disparities with esophageal cancer mortality at a high-volume university affiliated center: An All ACCESS Invitation, *Journal of the National Medical Association*, in press.
- (3) Mehta, Bella, S Ibrahim, WM Briggs, and P Efthimiou, 2019. Racial/Ethnic variations in morbidity and mortality in Adult Onset Still's Disease: An analysis of national dataset", *Seminars in Arthritis and Rheumatism*, doi: 10.1016/j.semarthrit.2019.04.0044.
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3.1. Talks (I am years behind updating these).

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- (2) Wei Li, Piotr Gorecki, Robert Autin, William Briggs, Elie Semaan, Anthony J. Tortolani, Marcus D'Ayala, 2011. Concurrent Prophylactic Placement of

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- (3) Wei Li, Jo Daniel, James Rucinski, Syed Gardezi, Piotr Gorecki, Paul Thodiyil, Bashar Fahoum, William Briggs, Leslie Wise, 2010. FACSFactors affecting patient disposition after ambulatory laparoscopic cholecystectomy (ALC) cheanalysis of the National Survey of Ambulatory Surgery (NSAS). American College of Surgeons.
- (4) Wei Li, Marcus D'Ayala, et al., William Briggs, 2010. Coronary bypass and carotid endarterectomy (CEA): does a combined operative approach offer better outcome? - Outcome of different management strategies in patients with carotid stenosis undergoing coronary artery bypass grafting (CABG). Vascular Annual Meeting.
- (5) Briggs, WM, 2007. On equi-probable priors, MAX ENT 2007, Saratoga Springs, NY.
- (6) Briggs, WM, and RA Zaretzki, 2006. On producing probability forecasts (from ensembles). 18th Conf. on Probability and Statistics in the Atmospheric Sciences, Atlanta, GA, Amer. Meteor. Soc.
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